REMARKS

Prior to an examination of the present application, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

By this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-28 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein and new claims 29-56 have been added.

Respectfully submitted,

Yoshiharu KOBAY ASHI et al.

Registration No. 41,471 Attorney for Applicants

JRF/fs Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 December 15, 2005